



RENEWAL OF THE UTAH HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED WAIVER FOR TECHNOLOGY DEPENDENT/MEDICALLY FRAGILE INDIVIDUALS

December 2012 Executive Summary

Introduction

The Utah Home and Community Based Waiver for Technology Dependent/Medically Fragile Individuals (Tech Dependent Waiver) expires June 30, 2013. In order to obtain continuing approval of this waiver, the State Medicaid Agency must submit a waiver renewal application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by March 31, 2013.

Drafting Process

The State Medicaid Agency began preparing for the waiver renewal in June 2012. Activities involved in drafting the application included convening a workgroup comprised of consumers, advocates, nurses, providers, and staff from both the Bureau of Authorization and Community Based Services and the Bureau of Children with Special Health Care Needs within the Utah Department of Health.

Public Input

To obtain public input into the development of the waiver renewal, the State has completed the following:

- The workgroup convened as part of the drafting process participating in a workgroup session.
- Utilized feedback from the group resulting in amendments to the first draft.

Activities left to be completed:

- Present to the Medical Care Advisory Committee – January 2013
- Present to the Utah Indian Health Advisory Board – December 2012/January 2013
- Distribute an electronic copy of the “final working draft” to:
 - All groups listed above
 - Disability Law Center
 - Utah Family Voices
 - Utah Association of Home Care Pediatric Committee
 - Any other party requesting a copy

- Provide a 30-day comment period, December 31, 2012 to January 29, 2013, after widespread distribution of the “final working draft”
- Review and respond to comments and make decisions about further amending the waiver to incorporate additional comments received

The State intends to have a final draft completed by February 2013. Final review, approval and submission of the waiver application will be completed by the State Medicaid Director.

Changes from Current Waiver

- Updates to Eligibility Criteria
 - In determining the needs allowance of Tech Dependent Waiver applicants, there will now be an earned income disregard, up to the substantial gainful activity level of earnings defined in Section 223(d)(4) of the Compilation of the Social Security Laws, when determining countable earned income.
- Offering the Self-Administered Services (SAS) Delivery Model as an Available Option to Select Services
 - Recipients and their families will now have more flexibility and choice as two existing services, In-Home Feeding Therapy and Family Support Services, will now be available as recipient/family directed services in addition to the traditional agency based option currently available.
- Quality Improvement
 - The state has enhanced the quality improvement strategies developing a Critical Incidents and Events Reporting Requirements Standard Operating Procedure to further safeguard waiver participants.

Conclusion

The proposed modifications will result in improvements to the current waiver. Input received from stakeholders will further enrich the final product.

Questions and comments about the draft waiver application are welcome and can be submitted to:

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